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money is exhausted and his disease is too far advanced for cure by operation, when he finally drifts to the charity hospitals, where his sufferings can be controlled only by opiates, and he dies a lingering death, offensive as well to himself as to all with whom he comes in contact."

Of special interest to the physician are the chapters on diagnosis and treatment. On the question of exploratory operations the book urges caution, for "to cut into cancer tissue *in situ*, undoubtedly adds to the danger of dissemination of the disease. In certain regions, however, the radical operation for cancer involves such great operative risk and such serious mutilation, that it can not with justice to either patient or physician be advised on anything but a positive diagnosis."

More than half of the book is devoted to a discussion of carcinoma of different organs. For each of these there is given in succinct form the symptoms, differential diagnosis, the precancerous lesions, the standard operative treatment, and the results which may reasonably be expected.

Sarcoma and other malignant tumors are next discussed, and there is a final chapter on the treatment of inoperable or recurrent cancer.

Altogether this publication embodies the consensus of the best present-day medical opinions concerning cancer, and its careful study by physicians everywhere is most earnestly to be desired.

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## AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION TO MEET IN NEW ORLEANS.

The next annual meeting of the American Public Health Association is to be held at New Orleans, La., October 27–30, inclusive. The central themes of discussion will be Southern health problems, including malaria, typhoid fever, hookworm, soil pollution and the privy, etc.

In view of the possibility of a recurrence of influenza next winter, a full session will be devoted to this subject for the purpose of developing methods of control.

A special effort has been made to arrange the program to meet the practical needs of health officials. Accordingly, there will be discussion on such questions as the attitude of legislators toward public health, the obtaining of appropriations, cooperation from women's clubs and health organizations, and the organization of health centers.

The programs of the sections will, as usual, deal with public health administration, vital statistics, sanitary engineering, laboratory methods, industrial hygiene, sociology, and food and drugs.

Two special programs will also be presented on various phases of child hygiene and personal hygiene.

The program of the meetings will be published in the American Journal of Public Health appearing October 5 or may at that time be had upon application to the Secretary, 169 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, Mass.

Winter railroad rates to New Orleans will be in effect from all points after October 1.

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

### QUARANTINE OF INFECTED PERSONS UPHELD BY TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS.

The Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas has again held[1] that a person who is infected with a venereal disease may be quarantined until the disease is no longer communicable.

A woman, found to have syphilis, was ordered by the health officer of Houston to be confined for treatment at the city farm. She applied for a writ of habeas corpus to secure her release, but this was denied by the court. One of the contentions made in her behalf was that she had been given numerous tests and that some showed positive results and some showed negative results. Regarding this the court said:

* * * Nothing is thus presented for our decision. If relator is free from syphilis or gonorrhea she may present her application for writ of habeas corpus to the local courts under the authority of ex parte Hardcastle,[2] decided by us at this term, and if free therefrom may be discharged. The courts will understand that the health officers have no right or power to hold in quarantine citizens who do not show the presence of some of the diseases named in chapter 85 of the acts of the fourth called session of the thirty-fifth legislature.

In conclusion it was stated:

* * * We think the provision of said act that such patients should be confined for treatment until declared cured by official pronouncement is not unreasonable, unjust, or arbitrary. Our attention is not called to any authorities holding this or other similar acts violative of any of the provisions of our Constitution, or discriminatory, arbitrary, or unreasonable.

## CLEANING OF SURFACE CLOSETS AND PRIVIES.

### ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CLEANING OF SURFACE CLOSETS AND PRIVIES HELD VALID BY NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT.

An ordinance requiring the cleaning and inspection, under supervision of the city, of all surface closets and privies, making an assessment for such work, and providing for the sale of the land in case

[1] Ex parte Brooks, 212 S. W., 956.
[2] 208 S. W., 531; Public Health Reports, July 4, 1919, p. 1489.